FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 DECEMBER 1985

Further Developments After Rome, Vienna Shootings

Asked about the possibility of an Israeli action in Libya, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Jerusalem television that he does not eliminate the possibility of an attack against terrorist targets "anywhere." The problem is not just that of Abu Nidal, he said, adding that Yasir 'Arafat is still the "main person responsible for terrorism." In other speculation about Israel's intentions, the Kuwaiti defense minister told *AL-SIYASAH* that Israel may use "unexpected" tactics in revenge for the airport shootings, according to KUNA.

Three Tunisian passports used by the terrorists were among the passports kept by the Libyan authorities after the recent expulsion of Tunisians from Libya, a Tunisian security spokesman disclosed at a press conference reported by Tunis radio. Tripoli radio carried a comment by JANA's political editor contending that Israel would not have dared to make "insolent" threats of retaliation were it not for the "effeminate" and "submissive" Arab rulers who "deplore the liquidation and death of any Zionist in order to please the enemy."

Syrian-Jordanian Summit

President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn held talks at Al-Asad's palace in Damascus 30 and 31 December, Damascus radio reported, noting that the discussions covered regional developments, joint Arab action, and bilateral relations.

Lebanon

As'ad al-Shaftari, head of the Lebanese Forces Security Services, narrowly escaped an assassination attempt in the Judaytat al-Matn area 31 December, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed. Meanwhile, Al-Jumayyil told university students in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that the tripartite agreement is a "positive initiative," but he expressed concern over the "minimum level of consensus" in its favor.

In Tehran, the Foreign Policy Commission of the Iranian Majlis sharply criticized the Syrian-sponsored tripartite agreement in a declaration cited by IRNA. The declaration warned that any agreement with the Phalangists implies a halt in the fight against Israel and acceptance of peaceful coexistence with it. A Hizballah representative visiting Tehran likewise maintained that the agreement signed in Damascus will only serve U.S. interests, according to Tehran radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian warplanes bombed Iraqi troop concentrations north of Al-Sulaymaniyah and south of Al-'Amarah 30 December, the Iranian Joint Staff announced in a communique reported by IRNA. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said Iranian planes killed or wounded 45 Iraqi civilians in attacks on residential areas, adding that Iran will be harshly punished and will pay a high price for this "crime". Iraqi planes raided Khark Island and hit another "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast later the same day, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA.

The Iranian agency also cited a Tehran press report that the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq will transfer its headquarters to Iraqi territory "liberated" by Iranian forces.

Sudan

The cabinet has approved amendments to the penal code aimed at removing violations and defects caused by the introduction of the 1983 Islamic code, the attorney general announced in a statement reported by SUNA. He said Islamic penalties will be retained for many offences pending further discussion of the definition and application of such penalties by a conference of Muslim theologians.

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Karmal Criticizes U.S. President's Statement
LD302030 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council received a BAKHTAR correspondent today for an interview. In reply to a question from the BAKHTAR correspondent in connection with the recent statement by U.S. President Ronald Reagan concerning Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal said:

During his recent weekly statement, U.S. President Ronald Reagan once again revealed the true intentions of his and his administration's interventionist and war-mongering policy toward the DRA. Using language which under no circumstances befits a responsible authority such as the president of a great country, and in the most hostile tone possible and using hypocritical logic, Ronald Reagan once again repeated the known hostile U.S. stand against revolutionary Afghanistan and also the old and oft-repeated fabrications and anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet accusations.

We in Afghanistan have long been familiar with the irresponsible statements of Mr Reagan and the hostile anti-Afghan actions of his administration. The people of the world know well the aggresive policy of the United States, not only against our country but concerning the most important issues in the world.

It is not accidental that this year Ronald Reagan speaks with such crazy language concerning our country. The great victories won by the people of Afghanistan during the current year in all areas — including the convocation of the historic grand tribal assembly of the people of Afghanistan, the convocation of the tribal assembly of border tribes, the holding of elections for the local organs of state power and administration in the country — which are all indicative of the broadening of the social pillars of the revolution, the confidence of the masses of the people at the revolutionary sovereignty of the Afghan people, and the unbreakable will of the people to defend the homeland and revolution against their reactionary and imperialist enemies, which is reflected in the convocation of assemblies throughout the country; also our eye-catching victories in eliminating the counter-revolution, the enthusiastic welcome by the people of Afghanistan for the Ten Theses and the statement of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and the preparation of necessary groundwork for the participation of the representatives of various strata of the people in the administration of local organs, all these things have aroused the indignation of all enemies of the Afghan revolution, including Mr Reagan, who have made their position clear and unambiguous against the people of Afghanistan.

Mr Reagan sees that despite the intensifcation of the undeclared war against the DRA and despite the allocation of hundreds of millions of additional dollars for the continuation of murder and destruction in our country, Afghanistan, the hopes and designs of his administration regarding revolutionary Afghanistan are being foiled. The enemies of the DRA, including Reagan, know well that the DRA, which is the embodiment of the sovereignty of all people of Afghanistan, relies on the broadest strata of the country's inhabitants, the bases of which include workers, peasants, intellectuals, national capitalists, national traders and industrialists, spiritual leaders, and representatives of all tribes and nationalities of the country within the framework of the National Fatherland Front of the DRA. They consider the DRA state their own state and the embodiment of their demands and interests, and thus defend it. The DRA relies on these forces. It is further and further consolidated and its bases broadened.

Our enemies know well that the DRA enjoys broad international support and recognition from the progressive countries and forces of peace, progress, and revolution in the world and its international credibility is being consistently enhanced. These are all undeniable facts to which only people like Mr Reagan close their eyes. The DRA is not in need of recognition and kindness from the forces of imperialism and the militarist regimes dependent on imperialists which, as a result of pressure and blackmail by U.S. imperialism, are standing against the DRA.

Reagan, who represents an aggressive and war-mongering imperialist state — and during his term of office the policy of aggression and war of the United States against the peoples of the world has been intensified — does not have the right to speak in the name of freedom and human rights. The most dark, subversive, and terrorist inhuman actions in the world have unbreakable links with the present policy of the Washington administration. It is the United States and the Reagan administration which, in order to claim the plundering interests of the [word indistinct] military-industrial complex, pursues policies of agression and war-mongering for the purpose of disrupting security, detente, and peaceful coexistence to the (?detriment) of world peace and of the interests of the people of the world.

By creating hotbeds of tension U.S. imperialism and the Reagan administration want to pursue their aggressive and interventionist policies in various regions of the world. In fact it is U.S. imperialism which savagely confronts the victory of the antifeudal and anti-imperialist national democratic April revolution as a result of which, with the continuation and intensification of the undeclared war against the DRA, it has become the major and fundamental agent of the creation of tension in the region and of the situation around Afghanistan.

In his statement, Reagan, in his particularly shameless style, tried to evade responsibility for the crimes which have been and are being committed against the people of the DRA, which are instigated, organized, financed, and armed by his administration. However, is there anyone who does not know that Reagan and his administration, who hypocritically shed tears for the people of Afghanistan, are responsible for the murder of thousands of children of our homeland and for the destruction of our country?

Those people Reagan referred to as freedom fighters are nothing but mercenaries of imperialism, bandits, highway robbers, and the tools of the undeclared war against free, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan. They are the ones who kill innocent civilians, set fire to [word indistinct] of peasants, prevent the expansion of culture and literacy among the people, destroy public establishments and, in a word, want to prevent the people of Afghanistan from achieving well-being, prosperity, and progress. It is the people with whom, as Reagan himself said, he has common aspirations. [as heard]

Despite the fact that now and then Mr Reagan hypocritically speaks of his sound intentions regarding a political solution of the questions surrounding Afghanistan, in reality he creates obstacles on the path of efforts toward the normalization of the situation surrounding Afghanistan. He is preventing the achievement of a political solution in this regard.

In his recent statement Reagan clearly stated that he will continue the undeclared war against the DRA. This contradiction between the words and deeds of Ronald Reagan once again reveals the essence of the false aggressive and interventionist policy of the U.S. Administration against the DRA. Mr Reagan should know that the people of Afghanistan cannot be misled by such measures and statements. The people of Afghanistan are determined, despite the aggressions and sinister intentions of imperialism and of its agents and collaborators, to defend the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity of the country, and the gains of the popular April revolution.

The people of Afghanistan now and forever are on the path toward prosperity and the lunatic designs of their enemies, headed by the U.S. Administration, aimed at reversing this path, are in vain.

General Secretary Addresses New Appointees

LD292247 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, today, in separate meetings at the Headquarters of the Revolutionary Council received a number of nonparty men who have been appointed to high state positions and a number of other state employees, conferring with them in a friendly and serious atmosphere.

In their discussion Babrak Karmal congratulated the high-ranking officials on their recent appointments and wished them success at the heavy and responsible tasks that they have before them. In the course of the discussion, Babrak Karmal stated:

The right of participation of representatives of all strata of the people in the administration of the state affairs has been guaranteed and maintained in this phase of the national democratic revolution. It has been clearly and categorically stated in the Ten Theses, the statement of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and the documents of the 16th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee that our national democratic revolution has not been carried out in the interests of a particular class, stratum, tribe, or nationality, but has been in the interests of all the people of Afghanistan and provides every social group and individual with their means for a dignified life — that is, peace, security, work, and welfare.

In assessing the present situation, Babrak Karmal said: The victory of the April Revolution and the decisive defeat of the counterrevolutionary bands are inevitable. At present these servant bands are confronted with the crisis of defeat.

Babrak Karmal once again spoke about the pressing task of broadening the social pillars of the people's sovereignty, normalizing the situation, and maintaining peace and security throughout the country, adding: I reiterate that the state administration of the DRA belongs not only to the party. The active participation of the representatives of various strata of the people in the work of the local and central organs of the state administration, and the National Fatherland Front and its member social organizations is being ever further developed. At this time further steps will be taken in order to maintain true democracy — that is, the true sovereignty of the people over the DRA state, with the unity and solidarity of all nationalities, tribes, and clans residing in the country.

Babrak Karmal said: This is not a passing and temporary policy or tactic, but is a continuous task. The PDPA and the DRA state will implement all the pledges which they made before the historical Loya Jirga of the people of Afghanistan and the High Jirga of the border tribes and which are enshrined in the PDPA Action Program, the DRA Basic Principles, and other documents — in particular, in the Ten Theses, the statement of the Revolutionary Council, and the documents of the 16th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee. The party and state are the true and staunch defenders of the interests of the workers of the country and of all strata and social groups of the people of Afghanistan. The true aspirations of our party and revolution are for the people of Afghanistan to enjoy a peaceful and prosperous life. True democracy is maintained by having the people solve their own problems. All social strata, including workers, peasants, artisans, national entrepreneurs, intellectuals, nomads, and other social groups, with complete unity of [word indistinct] are to have an active role in the cause of progress and prosperity of our common united country, Afghanistan.

At the end of his discussion, Babrak Karmal outlined the tasks of every one of the high-ranking officials, drawing their attention to the characteristics and importance of these tasks.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants promised Babrak Karmal that they would acomplish the tasks entrusted to them proudly, honorably, seriously, and devote all their energy for the prosperity and well-being of the people of Afghanistan in their relevant spheres, including the socioeconomic and cultural growth of the country, the consolidation of solidarity and unity between various social groups and strata of the people, nationalities, and tribes of the country, and educational work among the people.

Politburo's Barialay Meets Gandhi in Bombay

LD310857 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 31 Dec 85

[Text] Kabul, December 30, BAKHTAR: Mahmud Barialay alternate member of the Politburo and secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, PDPA CC, met with Rajiv Gandhi, president of the country-wide committee of the Indian National Congress (I) party and prime minister of India in Bombay.

During the meeting, held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, Mahmud Barialay conveyed the best wishes of Babrak Karmal,

general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA to Rajiv Gandhi. Both sides, moreover, exchanged views on the ever-further expansion of friendly relation between the PDPA and the Indian National Congress (I).

Mahmud Barialay attending the official function held on the occasion of centenary anniversary of the Indian National Congress (I) party handed over the congratulatory message of the PDPA CC and the miniature of Mrs Indira Gandhi to the Indian leaders.

According to another report, Mahmud Barialay met with Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan, the national leader of Pushtoons and Khan 'Abdol Wali Khan chairman of the National Democratic Party of Afghanistan in Bombay. Mahmud Barialay, moreover, granted an interview to Indian *DAILY EXPRESS*.

Government Seeks Direct Talks With Pakistan

NC281819 Paris AFP in English 1806 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 28 (AFP) — Afghanistan today called on Pakistan to hold direct talks with the Kabul government without formally granting recognition to the regime of President Babrak Karmal, Radio Kabul monitored here reported.

An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the official radio said the two countries could hold talks on reaching a negotiated settlement of the Afghan crisis on the pattern China and the United States adopted in Warsaw under UN auspices, without establishing diplomatic relations. The Warsaw talks led to normalization of Chinese-American relations.

The fresh Afghan offer came four days after Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan firmly rejected the possibility of changing the format of indirect negotiations being conducted under UN auspices since 1982. Pakistan maintains that direct negotiations would amount to official recognition of the Soviet-backed Afghan Government.

The sixth round of proximity talks in Geneva, after reaching a crucial phase over the timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, ended earlier this month in "impasse". Yesterday marked the sixth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Kabul Announces Release of Australian Couple

GF301145 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] On the basis of a report given by a responsible security source, two nationals of Australia, Louis Guthrie Robert Williamson and his wife Jennifer Williamson, who had been arrested by the security forces of the country in Shurabad County of Qandahar Province on charges of illegal crossing of the borders of Afghanistan with the cooperation of a group of counterrevolutionary groups on 15 May 1985, have been pardoned and released at the request of the UN secretary general and in pursuance of the humanitarian policy of the DRA after the [word indistinct] of the presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA in function of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

Rebel Groups 'Crushed,' Weapons Seized in Herat

LD301825 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Quoting a responsible security source, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of a successful operation by the country's heroic Armed Forces in order to completely eliminate the counterrevolution and create a peaceful atmosphere in the country's villages, a 90-man armed rebel group including their ringleaders was recently crushed in the villages of Enjil district, Herat Province, and 21 were wounded.

Some 90 assorted light weapons, 6 rocket launchers, 4 mortars, 2 recoilless guns, 2 DShK's, 40 antitank mines, 72 antipersonnel mines, and 22 of their hideouts were destroyed. [Word indistinct] assorted light weapons together with 7,090 rounds ammunition, 73 mortar shells, 28 antitank mines, (?32) antipersonnel mines; 27 detonators, 30 defusing devices for mines, 423 rounds of DShK ammunition, 6 packages of poisonous chemical substances, and a quantity of antistate propaganda leaflets were seized by the security forces.

According to another report, as a result of an operation mounted in the Jalalkot area, Rowdat district, Nangarhar Province, 78 armed counterrevolutionaries, including two of their ringleaders named Zamir and Mohasel, belonging to the Golboddin band were crushed and 32 antitank mines, 12 mortar shells, 20 rounds of assorted ammunition, one food store; 2 trucks, and 1 tractor belonging to them were destroyed.

Also, 58 of the counterrevolutionaries were captured and 16 light weapons, 2 heavy machineguns, 2 rocket launchers, 31 antitank mines, 50 hand grenades, 6,200 rounds of ammunition for assorted weapons, 58 kg medicines, and 1 food depot were seized by the security forces.

AFP: Rebels Claim 29 Soviet Troops Killed

NC291746 Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 29 (AFP) — Moslem rebels killed 29 Soviet and 22 Afghan soldiers in raids on the sixth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the pro-Mujahadeen ISLAMIC AFGHAN AGENCY said here today.

The agency said 21 Soviet troops were killed in rocket attacks on three Soviet bases in Kabul overnight on December 26-27.

Four Afghan soldiers were killed and a tank destroyed in another attack on the headquarters of the Eighth Afghan Division on December 27 in the Kargha district of Kabul, it said.

Government artillery returned fire, killing two Mujahadeen and five civilians, the agency said.

Eight Soviet and four Afghan soldiers were killed in an attack on Jalalabad Airport, east of Kabul on December 26, in which two transport planes, three tanks and a fuel depot were destroyed, the agency said. Seventeen Soviet troops were injured in the same raid.

Fourteen Afghan soldiers died in an attack on the Eleventh Afghan Division in Jalalabad on the same day, the agency said.

Clandestine Radio Reports Recent Explosions

GF301916 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Despite the tightening of stringent security measures in Kabul and in most of the bigger cities of the country, the heroic attacks of our mujahidin have been accelerated against theinfidel Soviet forces and the misguided elements of the Karmalregime at the beginning of the 7th year of the occupation of our Islamic country.

One of our mujahidin brothers reported this and added: Over the past 48 hours, reports have been received from Kabul, Qandahar, Khost, Panjshir Valley, Herat, Badghis, and Jaghurs concerning a series of explosions against the enemy forces. This news source said that detailed reports of casualties or enemy losses were not yet available. This mujahid brother added that some time back the heroic and valiant sons of Afghanistan had carried out an attack on (Ghanizan) in Kabul, the center of meeting and debauchery of the elements of the infernal Khad organization, in which 12 of these deceitful persons were killed. He added that a tank which was guarding the hotel was set on fire.

Bhagat on Lifting of Martial Law in Pakistan

BK310854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 85

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat, has said that the recent development in Pakistan is welcomed if it is for the restoration of democracy. Talking to AIR [All India Radio] Panaji correspondent, Mr Bhagat said the lifting of martial law in Pakistan is an internal issue of that country. He hoped that this development will strengthen the re[illegible]ation between India and Pakistan.

Protocol With USSR in Power Sector Signed 27 Dec

BK271559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 85

[Text] India and the Soviet Union today signed a protocol to step up cooperation in the power sector. The working program of cooperation for the years 1986-90 envisages joint execution of thermal and hydro projects, modernization of the existing ones and speedy supply of critical spare parts for Indian projects.

The Soviet Union has agreed to assist in renovation and modernization of 26 thermal power stations of Soviet make. The two countries will also cooperate in the design and delivery of equipment and material and commissioning of power projects in third countries.

Demonstrations Mark Soviet Intervention in DRA

HK271438 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 27 Dec 85

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 27 (AFP) — Nearly 5,000 people demonstrated near the presidential palace here today on the sixth anniversary of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, PRESS TRUST of INDIA (PTI) said. They were led by Acharya Dharmendranath, general secretary of the Friends of the Afghan Association, and Mohamed Baqai, president of the "Afghan Mujahidin", PTI added. Police prevented the demonstrators from moving to the diplomatic area of the city but said the protest was peaceful. There are an estimated 15,000 Afghan refugees in India.

(In Bangkok, about 400 Moslems staged a protest outside the Soviet Embassy, chanting "Soviets get out of Afghanistan" and "USSR, dictatorship." A security force of about 50 police stopped the protestors from throwing posters onto the embassy grounds. There were no other disturbances and no one was arrested. The demonstration was organized by the political activist group the Moslem Center of Thailand. Some 200,000 Moslems live in Bangkok, capital of mainly Buddhist Thailand.

(In Canberra, Afghan demonstrators burned the Soviet flag outside the Soviet Embassy today and more than 300 Afghan and other Moslems took part in rallies in Canberra and Melbourne. Both rallies were peaceful.

(The Japanese Government today renewed its call for an immediate and total withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. "Japan will continue to give its full support to efforts to find a political solution of this problem on the initiative of United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar," it added.

Air Force Helicopter Crashes, 4 Killed

HK301542 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 30 (AFP) — Four airmen were killed when an Indian Air Force Chetak helicopter crashed today, the PRESS TRUST of INDIA NEWS AGENCY reported.

The agency said the helicopter had been on a routine flight from Khumbirgam Air Force Base in Cachar in the northeastern Indian state of Assam to neighbouring Mizoram State.

It did not disclose exactly where the crash had occurred, but quoted Air Force officers as having said that the aircraft had been found in pieces and that the dismembered bodies of the dead had been retrieved. The victims were identified as Pilot A. Tawade, co-pilot P.K. Yadav and Mechanics P.A. Ghuie and R. Kataria.

An inquiry into the crash has been ordered, the agency said.

The Chetak is a French Alouette III helicopter produced in India under license. It is used by the Indian Air Force, the Indian Navy and Civilian operators.

3 Casualties Reported at Congress Celebrations

HK280822 Hong Kong AFP in English 0817 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 28 (AFP) — Three persons were injured, one seriously, when police baton-charged delegates trying to get into India's ruling Congress (I) Party centenary celebrations today through an entrance reserved for ladies, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

The agency said an unspecified number of persons suffered bruising in the chaos and confusion that resulted from the crush, triggered when some male delegates tried to force their way into the venue through the ladies' entrance. Police armed with batons intervened when the situation began to deteriorate. None of the dignitaries attending was reported hurt.

President Appoints New Provincial Governors

BK291614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Excerpt] After consulting with the prime minister, the president of Pakistan has appointed new governors for the provinces. The names of the governor and provinces are as follows:

Maqdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Quraishi — Punjab; Retired Lieutenant General Jahandad Khan — Sind; Nawabzada Abdul Ghaffoor Khan Hoti — NWFP; Retired General Mohammad Moosa — Baluchistan.

The appointed governors will take the oath of office tomorrow afternoon. Chief justices of the high courts of the areas concerned or acting chief justices will administer the oath of office. The services of the Punjab Governor Lieutenant General Ghulam Gilani Khan, NWFP Governor Lieutenant General Fazle Haqs and Baluchistan Governor K.K. Afridi will be restored to the Ministry of Defense after relinquishing the office of governor.

Ministers Tender Resignations at Cabinet Meeting

BK301555 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] The federal Cabinet meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, was held in Rawalpindi today. Members of the federal Cabinet submitted their resignation to the prime minister so as to enable him to form a new Cabinet to administer the country and to formulate the programs and policies of his government. The prime minister has asked the federal ministers and the ministers of state to discharge their duties until a new Cabinet is formed.

Ziaul Haq Administers Oath to New Chief Justice

BK301037 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Consequent upon the lifting of the martial law, Mr Justice Mohammad Halim took oath under the Constitution as the chief justice of Pakistan and Mr Justice Kul Mohammad Khan as acting chief justice of the Federal Shariat Court. The oath was administered by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq at the presidency this afternoon.

Precensorship Lifted From 2 Publications

BK300226 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] It has been officially announced in Karachi that precensorship restrictions on the daily *AMN* and weekly *(MEYAR)* have been lifted effective immediately.

JASARAT: Najibollah To Replace DRA's Karmal

GF291238 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 25 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Dec — There is a strong possibility that Babrak Karmal is to be replaced. Western diplomats, in revealing this, said: Soviet leaders want to appoint Najibollah, the former head of Afghanistan's intelligence service Khad as the new president of Afghanistan. Several weeks ago Najibollah resigned from the leadership of Khad. According to informed circles he has since gained the support of all elements of the security departments. Government press these days introduces Najibollah as a lieutenant general. This had never been done by the press before.

Various Mujahidin Attacks in Afghanistan Reported

BK291700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin killed about 20 Soviet-Karmal soldiers in Kabul last Thursday [26 December] to protest the presence of Soviet forces in the country. The reports say mujahidin fired dozens of rockets which hit five important places in Kabul resulting in heavy damage.

According to reports, mujahidin inflicted heavy casualties after making rocket attacks on four garrisons of the Karmal forces last Friday. One group attacked a garrison in the Khowst area of Paktia Province killing 15 Karmal soldiers. Another unit fired on a military base in the (Suraghara) area in the far south, killing 12 Soviet-Karmal forces and militia members. In the north, mujahidin attacked garrisons in the Asmar and Barokowt areas of Konarha Valley killing 22.

Meanwhile, Radio Kabul says a Karmal administration court sentenced two mujahidin to death for ambushing trucks on the highway linking Kabul with the Soviet Union.

BANGLADESH

Government Plans Action Against Absentee Officers

BK301733 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] The government in a press note issued on the 27th of this month gave elaborate explanation on abstention from duty by the engineers, doctors, and agricultural officers. In the press note the government had also called upon the said officers to join their duties by the 29th of this month. They were also requested to sit for a meeting with the cabinet committee in the same evening.

Although, responding to this call, a number of officers joined their duties, the majority of them refrained from joining their duties. Meanwhile, the Cabinet committee held a number of discussions with the representatives for the last few days, but it did not (?lead to) any result due to the unreasonable and intransigent attitude of these representatives of the striking officers.

The government has noticed with grave concern that public life has been subjected to sufferings in many ways due to such abstention from duties by the officers. The patients in the hospitals are not getting treatment, as a result of which a number patients have already died and many have been forced to leave the hospitals for not getting the treatment, and [word indistinct] in the outdoor and emergency services are being hampered. The development work had been slowed down in the agricultural and work sectors and those dutiful officers who are willing to join their duties are being prevented from doing so and in some cases they are being threatened.

The government thinks that such a situation cannot be allowed to continue and legal action will be taken under martial law and departmental laws and all facilities provided in respect of their services will be withdrawn. Necessary directions have already been issued to the appropriate authorities to implement the decisions of the government in this respect. Necessary arrangements have also been made to ensure speedy supply of gas, water, and electricity. All precautionary measures have been taken to maintain law and order in mills, factories, and government offices. Zonal martial law administrators at district and divisional levels have also been instructed to coordinate the measures in this respect.

Strikes Viewed As Challenge to Ershad

HK300924 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 30 (AFP) — A strike by the country's professionals, coupled with industrial unrest pose a new challenge to President Hussain Mohammad Ershad as he prepares to allow open political activities, reports said here today.

The country's military ruler has said he will allow open political and trade union activities from Wednesday after 10 months of political freeze, under a renewed plan towards holding national polls and putting the country back on the path to democracy. But strikes by doctors, technocrats and jute mill workers in the past 10 days have come as a new challenge to the military regime analysts said, even as Lieutenant General Ershad was preparing to restore the political process after successfully hosting the first summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) early this month.

Nearly 40,000 doctors, engineers and agricultural technocrats defied a curb on collective bargaining and embarked on an indefinite strike December 22 to press for higher salaries and professional benefits. Meanwhile, nearly a quarter of a million workers from the country's 69 jute mills Saturday began a 72-hour work stoppage for higher wages and benefits, threatening to continue the strike if their demands were not immediately met. The doctors' strike has virtually paralysed the country's clinics and hospitals, and hospital sources said yesterday that at least 25 patients in a northern Bangladesh hospital had died as a result of the strike. The authorities have expressed fears that if the engineers' strike continues, power, gas and water supplies, the railway signalling system and ferry services could be disrupted. If the strike continues in the jute sector, which accounts for nearly 60 percent of the country's export earnings, it may deal a severe blow to Bangladesh's limping economy, already suffering a chronic balance of payments problem, analysts said. So far, efforts to persuade the striking groups to return to work have proved futile and informed soruces said today that talks between the authorities and the professionals had failed to yield any result "which means the strike would continue." According to unofficial estimates, the demands for higher salaries and benefits by the professionals and jute workers would cost the government an additional 10 million dollars per year.

Political analysts here believe that the opposition intends to start putting increasing pressure on the government as soon as the ban on its activities is lifted Wednesday. The country's mainstream opposition have decided to mark New Year's Day Wednesday with a series of protest rallies and demonstrations. Both the fifteen and seven-party opposition alliances as well as the right-wing fundamentalist Jamaat-e Islami Party will hold separate rallies and protest meetings throughout the country demanding an end to martial law and early national polls.

Further strikes are also planned, with the Sramik Karmachari Oiykko Parishad (SKOP) — a federation of 16 trade unions and employees' organisations allied to the opposition — calling for a total shutdown of all mills, factories and public sector corporations on January 20. The SKOP campaign for higher wages and benefits is also to include a show of solidarity and "March on Dhaka" January 24.

President Ershad has repeatedly said he would go ahead with his civilianisation plans and hold national polls sometime in March or April. He has announced and cancelled national polls at least three times since coming to power in a bloodless coup in 1982, in the face of opposition boycott threats.

Students Retaliate For Raid on Residence Hall

HK301146 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 30 (AFP) — Students set fire to the vice chancellor's residence at Dhaka University and ransacked his office in retaliation to a police raid on a campus residential hall

today, police said. The students, belonging to groups opposing the military government, attacked the residence after a pre-dawn swoop by police on Mohsin Hall on the campus. At least 13 people were taken into custody during the raid, police said.

The raid was conducted as part of a campaign to flush out "armed hooligans" and unauthorised residents in residential halls and to recover illegal arms. Police said they recovered one sub-machine gun and some revolvers from the hall, which houses about 1,200 students.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Shamsul Haque was not present when his house was raided, but sources from his family said police put out the fire quickly while the students went on a rampage in his ground floor offices. It was not known how much damage was caused.

Student sources said they were protesting random harrassment by police who beat up innocent students during today's raid.

Vice Chancellor Haque earlier had said he would welcome police into the campus to flush out gun-runners. The university is considered to be a hot-bed of student activism and violence. Police later pronounced the situation under control, and observers said further campus violence could be expected following today's incidents.

NEPAL

25 Killed in Crash of Royal Army Plane

HK311056 Hong Kong AFP in English 1019 GMT 31 Dec 85

[Text] Katmandu, Dec 31 (AFP) — A Nepalese military aircraft crashed southwest of Kathmandu yesterday and all 25 people on board are believed dead, officials said today. A Defence Ministry announcement broadcast over Radio Nepal said that a Royal Army Sky Van Ran-23 aircraft with three crew and 22 passengers had crashed on a regular flight to Dhangadi, 390 kilometres (240 miles) Southwest of Kathmandu.

The announcement said an army inspection team sent to search for the aircraft and found its burnt wreckage near Hille Mountain, five kilometres (three miles) north of the Dandheldhura-Dhangadhi Highway. It said the plane was badly damaged and none of the 25 people were believed to have survived. It gave no further details of the accident. A highly placed official said all of the people on board were believed to be army personnel and that the flight commander and co-pilot were majors. A high level investigation team has been constituted to investigate, the ministry said.

SRI LANKA

Tamil Militants Fire on Troops; 1 Killed

HK290730 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Colombo, Dec 29 (AFP) — One soldier was killed and four others wounded when Tamil militants fired on troops conducting a search operation in the northwestern district of Mannar, high-ranking security sources said today.

Troops returning to camp after the incident yesterday escaped further attacks when a separatist landmine just missed their vehicle, the sources said. The soldiers, acting on a tip-off, had been looking for a militant hideout when militants in hiding opened fire on them at Adampan village in Mannar District, the sources said. One soldier died on the spot and four others were wounded, while there was no immediate information on any separatist casualties.

Meanwhile at Akkaraipattu in Eastern Province, an estimated 3,000 persons, mainly Tamils, staged a demonstration yesterday demanding that Tamil militants end their violence and stop victimising innocent civilians, residents said. Several Moslem shopowners reportedly put up shutters in support of the protest.

Further Details

BK301311 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] One soldier was killed and a large number of terrorists are believed to have died when Tamil Marxist terrorists ambushed an Army patrol in Mannar yesterday. The Army patrol was in search of 70 released Christian pilgrims kidnapped earlier this month from the Catholic shrine at Madu. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that two ambushes were made at a hideout close to Madu. One soldier was killed and two injured when a landmine exploded under their vehicle. It is believed that a large number of terrorists were also killed by the patrol. Sri Lanka Air Force helicopters were helping to provide defense fire for the Army patrol under terrorist attack.

Security Forces Kill 7, Detain 149

HK300650 Hong Kong AFP in English 0648 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Colombo, Dec 30 (AFP) — Seven militant Tamil separatists were killed and 149 suspects rounded up when security forces launched an operation in the northeastern Trincomalee District, high-ranking sources said today. The operation began yesterday and troops were still continuing mopping-up operations today in Nivlaveli, a one-time tourist resort north of Trincomalee where militants have been concentrating, the sources said.

The troops went in yesterday on information that a district public official abducted by Tamil militants several days ago was being detained there, the sources said. Security sources said that troops moving into the area were fired on and the seven militants were killed when the soldiers returned fire. The troops are only sent in if there is suspicion of criminal offences being committed, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The security forces had received information that a Moslem public official was being held in the Nilaveli area where armed militants had been detected, he added. Those detained will be questioned to see whether they have any links with Tamil separatists, and only hardcore members of militant groups will be

detained, while the rest will be released quickly, sources said. A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority are waging a frequently bloody campaign for an independent state in the north and east, complaining of discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

In a separate incident, a naval patrol intercepted a powerful motor boat with 17 people on board and recovered a huge haul of cannabis being smuggled across the Palk Strait to India late Saturday, official sources said today.

The English language daily *THE ISLAND* said that the men on board were Tamil militants who had opened fire on the navy vessel.

Informed sources said that the men were not believed to be hardcore separatists but had been involved in drug smuggling and had funded the separatist movement

It was not known how much cannabis was captured.

A second boat carrying motor spares and other items from India to Sri Lanka was intercepted off the northwest coast yesterday, security sources said.

The boat and its crew had been taken into custody, the sources said, but gave no further details.

Athulathmudali Says Some Terrorists Seek Amnesty

BK291125 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, yesterday announced that messages have been received from certain people that they are prepared to cooperate with the government and renounce violence if an amnesty is given to them.

Speaking at the conclusion of the 114th mahapola at the Panigur Valika Mahavidiyalaya premises last evening, Mr Athulathmudali pointed out that the strength of the Armed Forces and the provision of arms should be increased constantly in the fight against terrorism. The minister stressed that the terrorists could be compelled to negotiate only through this way and added that the final solution to the problem had to be sought through political means. Mr Athulathmudali said that while strengthening the Armed Forces, steps should be taken to [words indistinct].

Referring to the recent destruction of the main terrorist camp by the Army in Innoville, Jaffna, the minister said that Indian media circulated wrong information on the incident. He said that certain politicians in India had been misled by false propaganda of the terrorists. He added that these persons, instead of giving warnings to us, should understand the situation and warn the terrorists who are murdering innocent people.

1 Yemeni Hijacker Imprisoned, Other Acquitted

LD290803 Tehran IRNA in English 0753 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA — The Tehran Penal Court, trying the two Yemenese nationals who hijacked a Saudi jetliner to Tehran last year, sentenced one of the hijackers to 12 year imprisonment and acquitted the other, it was announced here Sunday.

The court following three sessions of deliberations, on Saturday issued a 12-year imprisonment term for the first defendant, Sa'id Salah Masudi, 36, while acquitted the second defendant, Mahmud Almas, 22. The two were charged with disturbing air flight security and creating a state of terror among the passengers while they commandeered the Saudi plane to Tehran enroute to Europe from Jeddah. The Iranian officials later secured release of all passengers of the hijacked jetliner who were all unharmed and the plane was handed over to Saudi Arabia. The hijackers were arrested.

The first defendant, Sa'id Salah Masudi, in the course of the trials which started Dec 22, confessed to hijacking of the aircraft and described his motive as being "political". However, the judge and the second defendant through presenting documents rejected the reasoning of the first defendant.

The two were tried on the basis of the law for the punishment of those distrubing air traffic security, sabotaging in related installations and also in compliance with the Hague and Montreal accords. Both agreements call for imprisonment of hijackers after the charge is proven.

Bahrain Parties Seek Removal of U.S. Bases

GF291700 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Summary from poor reception] Bahrain political parties have asked for the removal of U.S. Navy bases from Bahrain and a cancellation of the 1976 agreement between Washington and Manama. According to an IRNA report these parties and the social, economic, and political circles of Bahrain have asked for the release of political prisoners and general and free elections in Bahrain.

Majlis Body Opposes Lebanon Agreement

LD301213 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] According to an IRNA report, following the agreement reached between the principal groups involved in the clashes in Lebanon, the Foreign Policy Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly issued a declaration opposing any agreements with the Phalangists.

This declaration reads in part: The war between Lebanon and Israel is not limited to southern Lebanon; it extends to all regions of this country, wherever Zionist policies and the elements dependent on Zionizm, such as the Maronites and the Phalange Party, exist. The Phalangists are U.S. and Israeli agents, and any agreements with them will imply a halt in the fight against the Zionist regime and will mean the acceptance of peaceful coexistence with this regime.

The Majlis Foreign Policy Commission further stresses: Any agreement reached between the opposing parties in Lebanon must be based on the decisive fight against the Zionist regime. This fact necessitates a declaration of stands and practices by the parties related with the above, otherwise the results of such agreements will not be acceptable, to, or bear fruit for, the people of Lebanon.

In conclusion the declaration states: It is obvious that the Phalangist criminals have not distanced themselves from Israel. They are trying to reorganize, are hatching plots against the Islamic revolution, and will drag the liberation movement of the Muslims of Lebanon to the slaughterhouse.

Khamene'i Terms Kordestan Insurgents 'Idle Weeds'

LD292251 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — President Khamene'i on Sunday paid tribute to Kurdish Muslims of Iran for their self-sacrificing fighting against foreign-led insurgents in Kordestan Province shortly after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

Khamene'i who was addressing members of "Shohada Brigade," a group of Muslim Kurds trained for partisan and militia operations on land and sea, and visiting him on the eve of their departure to the battlefronts, said by their heroic resistance against the counterrevolution in Iran, Kordestan's Muslim people had virtually foiled the conspiracies of the "world arrogance."

The president referred to a limited group of counterrevolutionary elements in Kordestan Province of Iran as "idle weeds" noting that the presence of such elements in that province does not by any means indicate that they are going to stay.

The "Shohada Brigade" was formed immediately after foreign-led agitations in Kordestan Province of Iran shortly after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

Further Details

LD300734 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Sunday that massive presence of the Iranian forces and volunteers at the battle fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war has totally disheartened the Iraqi regime. Speaking in a meeting with members of "Shohada Brigade", a special Basij (mobilisation) unit, the president lauded their bravery in putting down troubles in Kordestan.

President Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council referred to the plots engineered by international arrogance and their agents in Kordestan after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, aimed at disturbing peace in the area.

He said that if Iran had failed to thwart these ominous plots, a handful of deviated and treacherous elements would have taken control of that part of Iran and had created another "Israel" or at least a permanent base to be used against Islamic forces of the region.

Stressing that counterrevolution has been eradicated in Kordestan, he added that Kurds and Sunni Muslims of Kordestan have fully realised that those who were allegedly defending their rights were the same people who looted their belongings and homes. Furthermore, the president said, they have also witnessed sincere devotions of committed revolutionary forces who rushed to the area to fight counterrevolution and safeguard life and property of the local people.

Envoy Conveys Khamene'i Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD301835 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli, Dec. 30, IRNA — The Islamic Republic ambassador to Tripoli Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad-Kazem Khansari met Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi here Monday. Regional developments and expansion of relations between the two countries were discussed in the meeting. Col. Al-Qadhdhafi submitted a message for President 'Ali Khamene'i to the Iranian ambassador.

Velayati Sends Message to Malian Counterpart

LD302101 Tehran IRNA in English 1903 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA — Head of Iran's north department of the Foreign Ministry M. Javid met with Malian Foreign Minister Elion Bey Sunday in Bamako and submitted him a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In the meeting Javid told the Malian minister that the Islamic Republic despite the five-year old Iraqi imposed war has consistently aided the struggling African countries with aid including medicine and foodstuffs. He told the Malian foreign minister that the Islamic Republic considers it her Islamic and humanitarian duty to aid such countries.

Iran-Mali relations were also discussed in the meeting as well as the border war between Mali and Burkina Faso. Foreign Minister Velayati's message has reportedly expressed concern over the fight and is urging restraint on the part of both countries. The Islamic Republic has diplomatic relations with 26 African countries. The Malian minister also expressed thanks for Iranian aid for his country, despite its being embroiled in an unwanted war. He also accepted an invitation from his Iranian counterpart to visit the Islamic Republic.

UAE State Minister, Khamene'i Comment on Talks

LD301410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, met President Khamene'i this morning and delivered a written message from Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, the United Arab Emirates head of state. Foreign Minister Velayati, Mir-Salim, senior adviser to the president, and the two countries' ambassadors also attended the meeting. Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi said that he was pleased with his visit to Iran and his talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also said: Since our arrival in Iran we felt we were holding a dialogue with brothers who speak the common language of the heart — a language calling for goodneighborly relations and the improvement of ties and mutual interests.

Reporting on the outcome of his useful talks with Iranian officials, the UAE state minister expressed his complete satisfaction with the results of the visit. He then added: With our profound faith and belief in the genuineness and honesty of the Islamic Republic revolution and its Islamic content, we attempt to enable our other brothers in the Persian Gulf to realize it also.

Mr Khamene'i, having expressed his gratitude for the sincere and kind message from the UAE head of state, said: As noted in Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan's letter, we too are of the opinion that the ties between our two nations are true and profound, stemming from Islam and the two peoples' common cultures. Today, all Islamic nations, particularly the countries situated in this sensitive region, need such bonds, as well as cooperation and unity.

The president then said: The super powers' aspirations in the region are clear to us all. Our oil, our strategic positions and, in particular our Islam, mean that the big powers are intensely interested in this region. Khamene'i also said: We are of the opinion that every single country in the region, in addition to maintaining its relations with other countries, must remain alert to the objectives of the arrogant powers and the hegemonists. Consequently, such alertness and exchanges of views by the regional states requires their sincere cooperation.

Referring to the emergence of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the increase in the super powers' interest toward the region, Khamene'i stressed the need for earnest and positive steps to be made toward ever-increasing closer ties between the regional states. He added: We are optimistic about the future and existing strong relations with our neighbors in the Persian Gulf. Needless to say, with the Iraqi invasion of our country and the start of the war, Iraq's global supporters have for some time tried to present the reason for our dispute with Iraq as being our inability to live alongside a neighbor. However, we proved in practice that the Islamic Republic has elevated to higher levels its relations with all neighbors that are prepared to maintain healthy and strong ties.

Concluding his remarks, the president stressed the expansion and ever-increasing profound friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the UAE in all spheres — diplomatic, cultural, commercial, technical and economic, as well as cooperation in international bodies.

Minister Interviewed, Departs

LD301133 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA — The United Arab Emirates minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah al-

Nu'aymi, left Tehran this morning following a two-day visit and talks with the Iranian officials including President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, who delivered a message from the U.A.E. President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan to President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran, in an airport interview prior to his departure, described the meeting as "fruitful and friendly".

He said that he held talks with Iranian officials on the establishment of security and stability in the Persian Gulf region. He pointed out that such meetings were necessary to maintain good neighbourly relations.

The Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati referring to important talks his counterpart from the U.A.E. held with the Iranian officials, said that the Persian Gulf region was a vital area and its independence and stability could not be maintained without cooperation of the regional countries.

Such cooperation, he added, could become possible through constant and multi-lateral assistance. Furthermore, he continued, such talks further consolidate independence of the countries and prevent interference of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf region.

Iraqi Planes Intercept Tehran-Bound Turkish Plane

LD301627 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Ankara, Dec. 30, IRNA — Iraqi war planes Monday intercepted a Turkish passenger plane en route to Tehran forcing it back to the Turkish airspace, informed sources at Ankara airport said Monday. The plane was to fly home members of a Turkish delegation on an official visit in Tehran headed by Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mustafa Tinaz Titiz.

Sources said the Turkish pilot of the plane chose to return to Ankara but that he landed the plane in Istanbul due to unfavourable weather conditions.

A spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry said to agency bureau [as received] in Ankara that his ministry is investigating the aborted flight.

A Turkisn delegation headed by the Minister of State Mustafa Titiz has been in Tehran since Wednesday for talks on bilateral relations and laying a trunkline from Iran to Turkey.

In spring 1982 the Algerian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamed ibn Yahya and others aboard an Algerian plane as it was traced and hit by Iraqi fighters immediately upon entering the Iranian airspace near the Iran-Turkey border. [sentence as received]

The International Civil Aviation Organization recently condemned Iraq for violating international aviation laws.

Reportage of Visit of Turkish State Minister

Freight Transportation Talks Held

LD281429 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] Issues related to the transportation of goods between Iran and Turkey were discussed this morning in a meeting between our country's minister of roads and transport with the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs. Engineering issues related to road transportation, especially the transportation of goods by Iranian trucks from Turkey to Iran and vice-versa, the transportation of goods by rail in the long-term, and issues related to air transportation were also discussed and studied. It was decided that in order to eliminate problems at the borders for Iranian trucks transporting goods from ports, and also problems concerning air freight transportation, consideration be given to the capacities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, railway, and that the necessary steps be taken and the required facilities provided. At the close of the meeting, the minister of road and transport, noting the recent endorsements of the International Civil Aviation Organization, stated: We hope that there will be a new outlet for establishing an air link between Iran and Turkey by Turkish airliners.

Confers With Commerce Minister

LD292256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] The Turkish minister of state for economic affairs, who is in Tehran, met and conferred this morning with Mr Ja'fari, our country's commerce minister. During the meeting it was stressed that the two countries' respective commercial representative offices should be opened in Tehran and Ankara in view of the increasing volume of trade and services between the two countries.

In the meeting the Turkish minister of state said Turkey is determined to increase its purchases of goods from Iran, and that a committee has already been set up to look into the matter. Now that the problems of land and rail transport between the two countries have been resolved, it has become possible to expand trade links between the two countries. Our country's commerce minister, expressing a desire for greater volume of trade between Iran and Turkey than in the past, said Turkey is given a particular priority in the foreign trade policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Under that policy Iran has been trying for some time to increase the volume of goods purchases from Turkey, and this is at a time when Turkey is already among the countries with the highest exchange with Iran.

Talks Conclude

LD292302 Tehran IRNA in English 1949 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA — Iran-Turkey trade committees of the 4th economic joint commission concluded their second round of talks here Sunday. The five commercial and economic committees which make up the commission exchanged views on collaboration in the areas of trade, industry, transportation, oil

and banking. It is expected that the results of the talks will be finalized in a letter of understanding to be signed later between the two countries.

Meanwhile Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mustafa Tinaz Titiz met here Sunday with Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi in what were described as the last round of talks between the two sides.

Although there has been no hint that volume of bilateral exchanges will be increased considerably, however it is expected that joint industrial cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the area of joint investments in a third country, will be topics of discussion in a new round of talks in the future relations.

The Turkish economic delegation is to leave Tehran on Monday.

War Information Chief on Saddam's 'Downfall'

LD291409 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi said here Sunday that Iraq's recent propaganda such as construction of a 500-kilometre concrete wall, possessing a "new weapon", etc., was a means to strengthen low morale of the Iraqi soldiers, seriously damaged following the recent mobilisation of Iranian forces.

Speaking at a press conference also attended by foreign reporters, Kharrazi said that such claims were baseless and were merely resorted to by the Baghdad regime to strengthen the moral of its forces.

He stressed that the moment the Islamic combatants of Iran launched their attack, all these lies will be revealed and these alleged "dams" will fall.

In reply to a question asked by one of the participating foreign reporters on the downfall of the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn and his replacement by another member of the Iraqi Command Council, Taha Ramadhan, Kharrazi said that what is important for the Islamic Republic of Iran is the "punishment" of the aggressor and materialisation of the conditions repeatedly announced to end the imposed war.

Saddam's downfall can only be studied as a phase in the future ruling system in Iraq. But, he stressed, the future system in Iraq should be determined by the Iraqi people. "Of course we emphasise on the punishment of the oppressor."

On the role of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, Kharrazi said that the assembly is comprised of representatives from various Iraqi Muslim strata and that there were no single Iranian member in it.

However, he stressed, what the Muslim people of Iraq will choose freely, will be no doubt accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In an interview with local and foreign reporters here Sunday the head of the War Information Headquarters in Tehran, Dr Kamal Kharrazi, said as governments in the region gradually discontinue their support for the Baghdad regime, the Iraq ruler Saddam Husayn invents stories in proof of the indefeatibility of Iraq to boost the morale of its panicked troops.

Kharrazi said Saddam's recent trip to Moscow was inevitably a failure in terms of his initial expectations, and that the implications of the more recent visits between the Iranian officials and the ranking officials of other governments has morally plagued the Iraqi ruler.

The head of the War Information Headquarters said that despite occasional rumours to the contrary, Iran's allies continue to side with Iran in relation with the imposed war. He said in a communique immediately after the visit to Moscow by Saddam Husayn this month, Syria and Libya had reiterated their support for the Islamic Republic.

Asked whether in his opinion the Baghdad regime might resume the war of the cities at any future time, Kharrazi said that all past experience has proved that the Baghdad regime exercises free will to violate any international convention any time, "but," said he "Iraq knows too well that our arsenals are full to capacity, and that we are fully capable of retaliating."

The head of the War Information Headquarters [WIH] said at the press conference here Sunday that because the news of the formation of a multi-thousand strong "marchers to Karbala" of Basij troops of Iran have circulated in the region, the Iraqi troops have been extremely nervous and hysterical in anticipation of a final thrust by Iran's Muslim forces.

Said Kharrazi in reference to Saddam's claim of having erected a 500-km concrete wall along the battlefronts to ward off Iran's Muslim forces, "Iraq's barricades are paper fences which will soon collapse, and incidentally we look forward to seeing and passing through such concrete walls as Iraq claims to have built."

The WIH head said Saddam has repeatedly executed his ranking army officers and other military personnel on charges of incapability at the warfronts, which action Kharrazi said, has in its own right served to further demoralize the army personnel in Iraq.

Asked about the Iraqi emigre organization in Iran called the "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" and Iran's expectations of the future government in Iraq, he said that the emigre organization in Iran should not be interpreted as implying Iran's interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, and that the Islamic government reconognizes the right of the Iraqi people for self-determination.

SAIRI To Transfer Offices to 'Liberated' Area

LD301826 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA — The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) is to transfer its headquarters to Iraqi territories liberated by the Muslim combatants of Iran in the course of the imposed war, *KEYHAN* Arabic quoting informed sources said here Monday.

The objective of the relocation is to enable SAIRI to supervise operations of the Muslim Iraqi mojahedin fighting in the front-lines of the Iraqi imposed war alongside Iranian Muslim combatants. The decision was made in the first session of the sixth term of SAIRI, opened here recently.

The daily said that great developments would occur in the fronts and that, therefore, the presence of the commanders of the Muslim Iraqi mojahedin in the fronts is necessary.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Positions

LD311045 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1033 GMT 31 Dec 85

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that at 1050 today pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, flying fighter-bombers, bombed enemy concentrations east of Raniyah in Iraq, with coordinates 36.11 north, 45.08 east, inflicting heavy losses and casualties. All the aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Iraqi Bombing Claim Denied

LD311047 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 31 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Tuesday denied Iraq's allegations that Iran raided a residential quarter north of Iraq and shelled the two Iraqi cities of Mandali and Al-'Uzayr Monday. He called on the U.N. to dispatch a team to verify Iraqi claims.

Following Iran's Monday attack on an Iraqi troop concentration center 36 kms northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah, the Iraqi regime, in order to justify its future moves, alleged that the attack was launched against a residential quarter, the spokesman added. He said that the nearest residential area to the center is Gangaveh village which is 9 kms away from the concentration center.

The spokesman added that there were indications that the troops stationed in the center were commissioned to suppress recent movements of Muslim Iraqi people residing in northern cities of the country. Muslim people in a number of northern Iraqi cities including Al-Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk and Deyhuk have recently intensified their protest against the present Iraqi regime.

The War Information Headquarters spokesman stressed that the objective of the Iraqi regime in making such allegations was to resume its aggressions on Iranian residential areas. "Therefore" he added "to prove baselessness of such allegations, we request the United Nations to dispatch a special delegation to establish the futility of Iraq's allegations."

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

GF301409 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] The fire of long-range heavy artillery of the mercenaries serving the criminal regime ruling Iraq against the civilian and residential areas of the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr continued over the past 24 hours.

According to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent, as a result of these barbaric actions, three housing units were damaged in Abadan.

Iraq Bombs Border Villages

LD301838 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 30 Dec 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 30, IRNA — Anti-aircraft fire of the Islamic forces prevented the invading Iraqi aircraft from raiding the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan at 12:15 hours local time Monday.

The fleeing aircraft in yet another cowardly action bombed some villages on the outskirts of Khorramshahr. No casualites or damages have as yet been reported.